

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE.

THE TOWN MEETING POSTPONED UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 4.

Mr. Hummel Attends the Meeting—Legality of a Bond—Bids for Street-Lighting—A Contract to be Made with the Gas Company.

Committeeman Martin Hummel, from the Second Ward, assumed his place in the Town Committee meeting on Monday night for the first time since he met with an accident last fall. Mr. Hummel was warmly welcomed by his colleagues.

Mr. Seibert moved that William L. Johnson be allowed \$200 for services rendered in assisting the Collector of Taxes. Mr. Seibert said that Mr. Johnson had performed a great deal of work during the year. The investigation of the tax accounts had imposed a great deal of extra work on the Collector, in which he had been assisted by Mr. Johnson. Mr. Rayner seconded the motion, and the allowance was made.

Among the bills presented by Mr. Seibert was one of Hubert J. Ashley which contained an item of \$12 for clearing snow from the sidewalk.

Mr. Cookefair objected to paying for that work, and said that the Committee had passed a resolution requiring each sidewalk district to take care of its own sidewalks, and keep them clear of snow and ice. He said that in his district it was done by voluntary contributions, and two collections had been taken this winter for that purpose. He did not think it was fair to make those people pay for work done in other parts of the town.

Mr. Rayner said that he understood the matter as Mr. Cookefair had stated it, and last winter he had collected from property-owners for having the work done.

The bill was paid, however.

Louis Johnson again brought up the case of Halsey M. Vought, who was sued by the Overseer of the Poor last year in a case of bastardy, and compelled to give a bond to pay \$2.50 per week. Mr. Johnson said that Vought had not been keeping up his payments; that there was some question as to the validity of the bond.

Mr. Rayner asked who the bondsman was. Mr. Johnson informed him that it was Edward Schwerdt.

Mr. Voorhees was questioned in regard to the matter, and said that the Town Counsel had declared the bond a good one, and that Vought or his bondsman must pay.

The County Prosecutor, Elvin W. Crane, was reported as saying the bond was "worth the paper it was written on."

Mr. Voorhees said that Vought was behind \$30.

The Clerk was directed to notify the Counsel to take legal proceedings in the matter and compel Vought to pay.

The Town Counsel says in regard to the bond that it was made out when he was called in the case. While it might not be the strongest document that could be drawn, it answered the purpose and has secured to the town over \$100, when otherwise they would not have received anything. It would no doubt have been difficult for Vought to have secured a new bondsman after conviction, and he would have been sent to jail, and after a short time the Freeholders would have ordered his release. The Counsel says that the County Prosecutor's view of the value of the bond is rather an extreme one. It contains elements of strength that it would perhaps be found difficult to upset.

Justice William R. Hall, who prepared the bond, says it was only intended to hold Vought for appearance in court, and he expected a new bond would be required after conviction. The bond includes the proviso that Vought shall be released by the decision of the Court.

Now bids for street-lighting were opened. The Newark Electric Light and Water Company and the Montclair Gas and Water Company were the only competitors. The electric company's bid included are lights, of which they offered supply 100 1,200 candle-power lights at a cost of \$100 each, or twenty-five lights at \$125 each, provided any one of their propositions for incandescent lights was adopted and the company guaranteed right of way for poles and wires; but they to furnish all necessary equipments.

The Montclair Gas and Water Company offered to light the town until midnight at \$14 per lamp under a one-year contract, and for \$13 under a five-year contract.

Mr. Halfpenny asked what recommendation the Gas Committee had to offer. Mr. Seibert replied that they had none.

Mr. Seibert said that the question of electric lights ought to be further investigated.

Mr. Seibert asked Mr. Baldwin if the company would make a contract to run until October 1. Mr. Baldwin said he thought not.

Mr. Rayner asked Mr. Baldwin if it

was true that the company was going to make a reduction to private consumers, and was told that it was true; that after April 1 the price would be reduced from \$2.50 to \$2.10 per thousand, with a discount of 10 per cent. for prompt payment.

Mr. Hummel asked why the company could not furnish lights at \$13 for one year as well as for five years.

Mr. Baldwin said there was an uncertainty about one-year contracts, as the company might be compelled to take up its plant at the end of a year.

Mr. Halfpenny moved that the company's bid of \$14 per lamp be accepted and the Chairman authorized to execute a contract for the ensuing year. His motion was adopted.

Mr. Page of Douglass Road asked why his application for sidewalk had not been complied with.

Mr. Halfpenny stated that Contractor Callahan had told him the delay was caused by the frozen condition of the ground. The flagstones had been placed in front of Mr. Page's property, and the work would be done as soon as the weather permitted.

The new election law, which changes the date of the township election to April 12 was discussed by the Committee. The change, it was said, would interfere with the giving out of contracts for public works and make it very late in the season before work on roads and sidewalks could be commenced. The present Committee hold over until May under this new law, and they will continue to hold meetings regularly until their successors take office. It was decided to change the date of the annual town meeting from February 29 to April 4.

Chairman Gilbert asked the Treasurer how the funds held out.

Mr. Seibert replied that there was money enough to meet all bills but that of the water company, which amounted to \$3,860.

Mr. Halfpenny reported that he had attended another meeting of the Joint Sewerage Committee. He said that the Orange City Council had passed a resolution to advertise for bids for the construction of the outlet sewer, but Mayor Truman refused to approve of it. The Council had consulted ex-Judge Stevens on the matter, and he advised them to pass the resolution again and send it to the Mayor. Considerable expense is attached to all this preliminary maneuvering in connection with the outlet sewer, and as this town is liable for its proportionate share, it would perhaps be more satisfactory to hear of some more substantial work being done than mere squabbling over technicalities.

Citizen William H. Groshong appeared before the Committee. (It is worthy of note that Citizen Groshong's appearance at a Committee meeting is always suggestive of patriotism.) He handed a neatly folded document to Mr. Rayner, who perused it carefully and handed it to his colleagues, who each in turn read it with grave attention. The Committee debated on it in whispers, and the only words that the reporters could catch were "powder and refreshments." The Chairman passed the document to the clerk without comment. Private inquiry revealed the fact that it contained a reminder that Washington's Birthday was approaching, and that money was needed to celebrate it in due form.

The Committee appropriated \$15.

Will be Married To-morrow.

Fred. E. Sommerkamp of Walnut Street and Miss Cecelia McCaddin of New York city will be married to-morrow afternoon at five o'clock at the Church of Our Lady of the Good Counsel in Ninetieth Street, New York. The ceremony will be performed by the Rev. Father Dooley, the pastor of the church. Miss Martha Kenny of Haverstraw will act as bridesmaid and Louis Schmitt of New York will be the best man. The couple will reside in this place.

To Protect Themselves.

The recent purchase of property on Arlington Avenue from Mrs. T. F. Pierson by J. M. Rundall is said on good authority to be a transaction in which the Orange Water Company is interested. The land purchased contains a great many springs, and perhaps would have supplied a water plant similar to that now owned by the company in Grove Street. This action on the part of the water company is said to be one of self-protection.

A Bazaar.

The ladies of Christ Church Guild will hold their annual sale of fancy articles at the Guild House, Austin Place, on Wednesday and Thursday, February 24th and 25th, from three to ten P. M. Some handsome and very odd fancy work will be for sale. Refreshments will be served during the afternoon and evening. Supper at 6 P. M.

Our celebrated \$2 shoe in all widths and styles \$1.79, for this day only, at Shoenthal's, 312 Glenwood Avenue.—Adv.

Improvement Bonds.

At the last Town Meeting, it will be remembered, a strong pressure was brought to bear to carry through a measure for issuing bonds when the Town Committee's recommendation of \$3,000 for stone-road construction was under consideration. Henry Lawrence made a long address in favor of issuing bonds to the extent of \$150,000. Mr. Lawrence's proposition met with much favor, and the majority were only prevented from adopting it by the persuasive arguments of William A. Baldwin and Halsey M. Barrett.

There has been a steady growth of public opinion in favor of bonding for several years past, and it will not be at all surprising to see it manifest itself with renewed vigor at the approaching Town Meeting. The friends of bonding maintain that an extensive system of stone-road construction could be carried out without any perceptible increase in the tax rate. Six thousand dollars, it is claimed, will pay the interest on \$150,000 issue of bonds.

The fact that sewer bonds will have to be issued will give a stimulus to the project of enlarging the amount so as to embrace other public improvements.

He Scared the Passengers.

The passengers on the Bloomfield car which left the stables in Newark at ten o'clock last Sunday night were considerably frightened by the antics of an unknown man, who seemed to be crazed with drink. Just after the car had passed over the canal bridge, the man, who was hatless and coatless and covered with blood, jumped on the front platform of the car, scaring the driver so badly that he jumped from the car with alacrity. The fellow then ran through the crowded car, pushing the ladies, who had risen in alarm, right and left and shrieking at the top of his voice, "Who is on this car?" Three young men volunteered to get off and hold the man until the next car came. It was learned that the man, who resides in what is called "Stumptown," had been in a free fight and did not know what he was doing at the time.

Marriage of William R. Raab.

William R. Raab, son of W. J. Raab of No. 425 Bloomfield Avenue, and Miss Marie Frederick of Montclair were united in marriage at the home of the groom at seven o'clock on Thursday evening, only the immediate friends and the relatives of the contracting parties being present. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. H. W. Seibert, pastor of the German Presbyterian Church. The bride was attended by Miss Lizzie Raab, a sister of the groom, and Miss Louise Roth of New York, and Gustave Widner and Chris. Mergner of Newark acted in a like capacity to the groom. After a wedding supper the happy pair left on a short wedding trip. Upon their return they will reside on Bloomfield Avenue.

Death of Henry Spear.

Henry Spear, a well-known and highly respected citizen of this town, died suddenly of apoplexy on Tuesday evening, at his residence, No. 111 Berkeley Avenue, in the seventy-fifth year of his age. He leaves a wife and four grown-up children. The funeral took place at 2.30 o'clock yesterday afternoon from his late residence. Interment was made in the Bloomfield Cemetery.

A Drama at Union Hall.

On Monday and Tuesday evenings next the Young Men's Catholic Union will give the four-act drama entitled "The Shamrock and Rose." They have considerable new scenery, procured for this play, and everything points to the success of the entertainment. The rehearsals are conducted under the supervision of John F. Dillon.

No More Work for Them.

The "Gentlemen Sons of Rest," a society whose members have taken an oath never to work as long as they are in good health, held a meeting on the depot platform, which they have leased for a year, yesterday afternoon and elected officers. The organization expects to take a hand in local politics this spring.

They All Love Women.

Professor Devlin, a phrenologist, inspected the topography of the craniums of a number of notable men about town at the American House on Tuesday night. Among the numerous skulls examined the Professor found one protuberance common to all, and that was an admiration for the fair sex.

Sued for Trespass.

Mrs. Jennie Lockwood of Henry Street has brought suit against Charles Army, an employee of Gilbert & Taylor, for damages resulting from trespass. Mrs. Lockwood claims that Army drove over her property with a heavy coal wagon in spite of the fact that she had told him not to do it.

Last day of special sale of Shoes and Rubbers at Shoenthal's.—Adv.